



An important historic first for London, with inspirational speakers in Trafalgar Square

The “Respect” campaign celebrated as a highlight to the European AIDS Conference

London, Oct 31 – Yesterday, more than 400 hundred people gathered in the city of London. They waved flags and banners and demanded respect for their lives, as people living with HIV.

Starting in Parliament Square, the crowd marched towards Trafalgar Square where about a dozen speakers, including HIV experts, activists and politicians. Such as Laura Waters from the British HIV Association explained why the importance of demanding respect: “We need to improve the outcomes of research for people living with HIV.”

The march and rally followed the 18th European AIDS Conference (EACS). Many delegates and experts from EACS joined the gathering because they agree with Alex Schneider: “HIV will only end if we jointly defend human rights and empower people living with the virus.” Schneider, president of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Life4me.plus, initiated the campaign that culminated in London’s yesterday with the demonstration.

“Respect! is a demand which goes far beyond HIV. We welcome diversity and oppose discrimination – no matter what makes us different from any majority”, claims Garry Brough from Positively UK.

Mirroring these demands, the rally was the final highlight of this campaign, which started on October 13th via countless online platforms. Website banners in blue, pink, and white flooded social media platforms together with the hashtag #RespectMyHIV. The inclusive and participatory approach for the campaign had individuals from all over Europe invited to create their own demands. This encouraged many individualized flags on the streets of London calling to embrace similar challenges such as #RespectMySexuality.

“Life4me.plus will go on campaigning,” Schneider summarizes the successful and peaceful events.

More about the campaign: <https://respectmyhiv.com/>

For further information, please email: contact@life4me.plus